

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SOFIA 00657 290803Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /047 W
-----291003Z 020143 /10

R 290642Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2637
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0657

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, PINS, PROP, BU
SUBJECT: BULGARIA AND RFE

REF: SOFIA 0101

1. EMBASSY HAS NOW COMPLETED REVIEW OF RFE BULGARIAN
SCRIPTS PERIOD JAN 1-15 IN CONTINGENCY PREPARATION FOR
POSSIBLE SPECIFIC GOB INITIATIVE TO DISCUSS SCRIPTS
PURSUANT TO FONMIN MLADENOV'S GENERAL CHARGES AGAINST RFE.
IN JAN 14 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR (REFTEL) MLADENOV SAID
THAT RFE WAS BROADCASTING MATERIAL INSULTING AND SLANDER-
ING BULGARIAN LEADERS AND "SACRED THINGS," EVEN GEORGI
DIMITRBP, "IN MOST VULGAR TERMS". EMBASSY IS MOST APPRE-
CIATIVE OF RFE SUPPORT IN PROVIDING SCRIPTS IN ENGLISH
AND BULGARIAN FOR OUR REVIEW.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SOFIA 00657 290803Z

2. OUR CONCLUSION IS THAT VAST MAJORITY OF RFE BROAD-
CASTING ON BULGARIAN AFFAIRS COULD IN NO WAY BE CALLED
SLANDEROUS OR VULGAR IN OBJECTIVE SENSE OF TERMS. TRUE,
GOB DOUBTLESS OBJECTS TO ANY AND ALL CRITICAL COMMENT, BUT
WE SUSPECT WHAT GOB WOULD OBJECT TO MOST DURING THAT
PERIOD, WOULD PROBABLY BE JAN 2 AND JAN 9 PIECES BASED ON
PETUR SEMERDZHIEV'S BIOGRAPHY OF GEORGI DIMITROV. SEMERD-

ZHIEV IS FORMER MEMBER OF BCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHO WAS EXPELLED FROM PARTY, IMPRISONED FOR A PERIOD, AND AFTER WAS ALLOWED TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL. HE NOW IS ASSOCIATED WITH NISSAN OREN AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY IN JERUSALEM.

3. SEMERDZHIEV'S ACCOUNT OF EVENTS IN BULGARIA IN THE PERIOD DURING SOVIET OCCUPATION AND COMMUNIST SEIZURE OF POWER, AND OF DIMITROV'S ROLE, IS AT STARK VARIANCE WITH BCP'S SELF-LGITIMIZING MYTH OF DIMITROV AS THE PARFAIT GENTIL KNIGHT OF BULGARIAN COMMUNISM. JANUARY 2 BROADCAST, FOR EXAMPLE, INCLUDES SEMERDZHIEV'S CHARGE THAT DIMITROV TOOK A PERSONAL HAND IN FRAMING EVIDENCE AGAINST NIKOLA

PETKOV, THEN LEADER OF THE AGRARIAN UNION, WITH THE EXPLICIT PURPOSE OF BEING ABLE TO TRY PETKOV FOR TREASON AND HAVE HIM EXECUTED. CERTAINLY THIS IS THE KIND OF BROADCAST THAT GOB WOULD LIKELY POINT TO AS SLANDEROUS VILIFICATION. IT MAY ALSO BE COMPLETELY TRUE.

4. WE ARE FACED WITH SOMETHING OF A DILEMMA HERE. THERE IS NO IMPARTIAL RECORD WHICH MAY BE CONSULTED. POSITION THAHQOV WAS INDEED FRAMED IS THAT TAKEN BY MOST WESTERN HISTORIANS OF THE PERIOD (SETON-WATSON, OREN, BROWN, ET AL). THAT DIMITROV TOOK A PERSONAL HAND IN THE FRAMING IS SEMERDZHIEV'S ADDITION, BASED ON HIS PRESUMED SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE AS A MEMBER OF THE INSIDE CIRCLE.

5. CONSIDERING THAT TWO MONTHS HAVE GONE BY WITHOUT WORD FROM GOB ON FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF SCRIPTS, IT MAY WELL BE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SOFIA 00657 290803Z

BE THAT MLADENOV HAS CONTENTED HIMSELF WITH THE ATTACK HE DELIVERED AT JAN MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR. SHOULD HE RETURN TO THE ATTACK AGAIN, EMBASSY WOULD REPLY THAT OUR SCRIPT REVIEW FOR THE JAN 1-15 PERIOD UNCOVERED NO PERSONAL ATTACKS OR VILIFICATION OF PRESENT GOB LEADERSHIP, THOUGH RFE DOES BROADCAST COMMENTARY CRITICAL OF MUCH THAT GOES

ON IN CONTEMPORARY BULGARIA. WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO SEMERDZHIEV, WE WOULD RECOGNIZE THAT HIS ACCOUNT OF EVENTS IS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THAT APPEARING IN STANDARD PARTY HISTORY OF THE PERIOD, BUT SEMERDZHIEV'S POSITION AS FORMER MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE GAVE HIM UNIQUE ACCESS AND STANDPOINT AND WE SEE NO REASON WHY HIS VIEW OF EVENTS AND PERSONALITIES SHOULD NOT BE BROADCAST.
FELDMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROPAGANDA, REPORTS, ALLEGATIONS, RADIO STATIONS, RECORDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SOFIA00657
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770107-0155
Format: TEL
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770311/aaaaaiwa.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e18b01b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SOFIA 101
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2958683
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BULGARIA AND RFE
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PROP, BU, US, CSCE, RFE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e18b01b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009